REMARKS

The Amendment

The above amendments correct the improper format of multiple dependent claims. The amendments also change the European style claims to proper method and composition claims.

New claim 21 is supported by claim 3 as originally filed.

No new matter is added in any of the amendments. The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter all the amendments.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 13, 2001

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Attorneys' Docket No.: 03528.0127NPUS00

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

Paragraph beginning at 2 of page 1 has been inserted:

This application is a National Stage of International Application PCT/EP99/07755, filed October 14, 1999; which claims the priority of EP 98119409.5, filed October 14, 1998.

In the Claims:

Claims 1-20 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A parvovirus vector having parvovirus DNA excisable from the vector DNA in a parvovirus-permissive cell, wherein the parvovirus DNA has a [lft] left terminus which comprises a parvovirus minimal origin of replication.

2. (Amended) The [arvovirus] parvovirus vector according to claim 1, [characterized in that the right] wherein the left terminus of the parvovirus DNA comprises internal replication sequences.

3. (Amended) The parvovirus vector according to claim 1 or 2, [characterized in that] wherein the parvovirus minimal origin of replication comprises [the] a consensus sequence of an NS1 nicking site[, particularly CTWWTCA].

4. (Amended) The parvovirus vector according to [any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that] claim 1 or 2, wherein the parvovirus DNA originates from a mammalian parvovirus.

5. (Amended) The parvovirus vector according to [any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that] claim 1 or 2, wherein the parvovirus DNA is a rodent parvovirus.

6. (Amended) The parvovirus vector according to claim 5, [characterized in that] wherein the rodent parvovirus is MVM or H-1.

7. (Amended) The parvovirus vector according to [any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that] claim 1 or 2, wherein the parvovirus DNA comprises a combination of DNA sequences of various parvoviruses.

8. (Amended) The parvovirus vector according to claim 7, [characterized in that] wherein the parvovirus DNA originates from H-1 and [its] the left terminus comprises a minimal parvovirus origin of replication of MVM.

9. (Amended) The parvovirus vector according to [any one of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that] claim 1 or 2, wherein the parvovirus DNA region coding for [the] capsid proteins is partially or fully replaced by an exogeneous DNA.

10. (Amended) The parvovirus vector according to claim 9, [characterized in that] wherein the exogeneous DNA codes for a polypeptide usable in a treatment.

11. (Amended) The parvovirus vector according to claim 10, [characterized in that] wherein the polypeptide is a [cytokin] cytokine or a toxin.

12. (Amended) The parvovirus vector according to claim 11, [characterized in that] wherein the [cytokin] cytokine is a chemotactic polypeptide.

13. (Amended) The parvovirus vector according to claim 12, [characterized in that] wherein the chemotactic polypeptide is MCP-1.

14. (Amended) The parvovirus vector according to [any one of claims 1 to 13, characterized in that it] claim 1 or 2, wherein the parvovirus vector is present as a parvoviral particle.

15. (Amended) A system comprising the parvovirus vector according to [any one of claims 9 to 13] claim 9 and a cell expressing the capsid proteins of parvovirus.

16. (Amended) The system according to claim 15, [characterized in that] wherein the expression of the capsid proteins is controlled by a helper plasmid [containing] comprising an SV40 origin of replication and the cell expresses an SV40 large T antigen.

17. (Amended) The system according to claim 15, [characterized in that] wherein the DNA coding for the capsid proteins is under the control of the parvovirus promoter P38.

18. (Amended) A method of producing the parvoviral particle according to claim 14, comprising the [transfection of] steps of:
transfecting a parvovirus-permissive cell with [a] the parvovirus vector according to [any one of claims 9 to 13] claim 9,
expressing [the cell expressing] the capsid proteins of a parvovirus in the cell, and
isolating [the isolation of] the parvoviral particle.

19. (Amended) Use of the parvovirus vector according to [any one of claims 9 to 14] claim 9 for gene therapy.

20. (Amended) Use according to claim 19, [characterized in that] wherein the gene therapy is carried out in the case of tumor diseases.

New claim 21 has been added.

-- 21. (New) The parvovirus vector according to claim 3, wherein said consensus sequence of an NS1 nicking site is CTWWTCA. --